

# Vital Forests | Vital Communities

Growing Minnesota's Advantage in a Global Economy

Project Update

July 1, 2005

## History of the Land - Focus on Forests A Video Education Project

**Project Lead:** University of Minnesota: History of the Land Productions

**Purpose:**

To produce a video program focused on Minnesota's northwoods, using footage shot during the creation of the video series, *Minnesota: A History of the Land*, as well as new footage.

**Objective:**

This episode will convey essential lessons in forest ecology and forest succession, beginning with an exploration of how Minnesota's current northern forest evolved out of the state's early history of logging and slash fires. In addition, it will focus on lessons learned as different strategies for forest management have been employed across time. Finally, the episode will explore humans' current relationship with forests and leave viewers thinking about options for managing forests in the absence of fire and how the health of the northern forests is linked to the health of human communities. This episode is slated for broadcast on public television in the fall of 2006.

**Progress to Date:**

The three forest stories told in the original series: When White Pine Was King, Slash and Burn, and Out of the Ashes will be summarized in this special episode as background for two new stories. The Story of Fire in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century will focus on what has happened to Minnesota's northwoods as a result of fire suppression – from the pioneering work of CC Andrews to the groundbreaking research of Myron “Bud” Heinselman – and what the loss of fire means to forest management.

The second new story will be White Pine Once Again, which will focus on efforts to restore white pine to Minnesota's northwoods. It will also feature compelling stories of the many other ongoing efforts to restore sustainability to the forests.

Project staff are in the process of forming an advisory group to help shape the direction of the documentary. They expect to hold their first meeting toward the end of June. They are also looking into creating partnerships in order to leverage project funding. A variety of potential partnerships are being explored that would allow this project to be funded and the resulting video to be used in a wide variety of ways.



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